

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated subcellular protein having a molecular weight of about 52kDa, said protein having been expressed from a *Francisella tularensis* subculture growing in synthetic salts medium at pH 6.5.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The subcellular protein of claim 1, wherein said protein is identified by immunological reaction with an antiserum or antibodies from said antiserum, said antiserum having been obtained from an animal which has been first vaccinated with O-polysaccharide ~~a component~~ extracted from a first infectious agent selected from the group consisting of bacterium, virus, fungus, yeast or parasite, which is immunologically cross-reactive with a second infectious agent selected from the group consisting of bacterium, virus, fungus, yeast or parasite, and then survived challenge vaccination with a dose of the second infectious agent which would be lethal in the absence of said first vaccination.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The subcellular protein of claim 1, wherein said protein is identified in a subculture of *Francisella tularensis* by antibodies in antiserum of mice, wherein said mice were protected with a cross-reactive vaccine prior to being infected with *Francisella tularensis* ~~mammal is a mouse or a human.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The subcellular protein of claim ~~[[1]]~~3, wherein said ~~infectious agent is a bacterium, virus, fungus, yeast or parasite, said first infectious agent is~~ [[being]] *B. abortus* and said second infectious agent ~~[[being]]~~ is *Francisella tularensis*.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for expressing a subcellular protein from a *Francisella tularensis* infected mammal, said protein having a molecular weight of about 52kDa, said method comprising subculturing a sample from said infected mammal in synthetic salts medium at a pH of 6.5 and in sub-optimal environment to enhance the expression of said protein.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said sub-optimal environment occurs during the first three rounds of subculturing.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of vaccinating a mammal against *Francisella tularensis* comprising administering a protein of claim 1 to said mammal.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying an infectious agent in a mammal, comprising vaccinating the mammal with a first infectious agent or a component extracted from said first infectious agent which is immunologically cross-reactive with a second infectious agent and subsequently exposing the mammal to a composition containing the second infectious agent, thereby causing the mammal to express an immunologically reactive protein against the second infectious agent, and immunologically identifying said infectious agent by exposing antiserum or antibodies from antiserum from said mammal to said composition or an extract of said composition.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said first infectious agent is *Brucella abortus* and said second infectious agent is *Francisella tularensis*.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said first and second infectious agents are bacteria, fungi, yeasts, viruses or parasites.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said mammal is a mouse.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the component extracted from said first infectious agent is O-polysaccharide.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said infectious agent has a molecular weight of around 52kDa.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) A method of assessing the immune status and level of protection for a mammal vaccinated with the protein of claim 1 comprising detecting the presence of antibodies to said protein in said mammal.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of probing antigens of an infectious agent of *Francisella tularensis* comprising detecting components of a subculture of *Francisella tularensis* which are immunologically reactive with antiserum or antibodies from antiserum obtained from an animal which has been first vaccinated with a component extracted from a first infectious agent which is immunologically cross-reactive with a

second infectious agent and then survived vaccination with a dose of the second infectious agent which would be lethal in the absence of said first vaccination.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for assessing in vitro the usefulness of a vaccine lot for quality assurance, comprising identifying and quantifying key subcellular protein in said vaccine lot.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said vaccine lot is a *Francisella tularensis* vaccine lot.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said *Francisella tularensis* subcellular protein has a molecular weight of around 52kDa.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying the presence of a *Francisella tularensis* infection in a mammal, comprising detecting the presence of subcellular protein having a molecular weight of about 52 kDa in the mammal's serum.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying the presence of a *Francisella tularensis* infection in a mammal, comprising detecting the presence of anti-myosin antibodies in the mammal's serum.